

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2374

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ANKARA 1052

EXDIS

LONDON PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR MACOMBER, BRITTANIA HOTEL.

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: TU, OVIP (IHSAN SABRI CAGLAYANGIL)

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT.

1. MFA DIRGEN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS YEVUZALP CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE AT NOON, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, TO HAND ME FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE FROM FONMIN.

2. BEGIN TEXT: ORAL MESSAGE FROM MR. CAGLAYANGIL TO DR. KISSINGER

I LEARNED FROM THE TELEGRAMS OF OUR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TRANSFERRED FOR MY INFORMATION TO BAGHDAD, WHERE I AM ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT, THAT MRS. KISSINGER HAS TO UNDERGO SURGERY ON FEBRUARY THE 12TH AND CONSEQUENTLY SOME ADJUSTMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE IN THE PROGRAM OF MY VISIT ON THE TIMING OF THE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. I HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT THERE EXISTED A POSSIBILITY THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE DINNER TO GIVEN IN OUR EMBASSY.

ON RECEIPT OF THE NEWS OF THE ILLNESS OF MRS. KISSINGER I WANTED TO CONVEY TO YOU BY TELEPHONE HOW SORRY I WAS TO HEAR THESE NEWS BUT I HAVE UNFORTUNATELY BEEN TOLD THAT IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT AND SOME TIME IMPOSSIBLE TO GET WASHINGTON BY TELEPHONE FROM BAGHDAD. I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO MRS. KISSINGER MY VERY SINCERE

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WISHES OF A QUICK RECOVERY.

INCASE SUCH CONTINGENCIES OCCUR IN THE COURSE OF AN OFFICIAL VISIT IT IS NORMAL TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS NOT ONLY ON THE SOCIAL SIDE OF THE PROGRAM BUT ALSO IN THE PROGRAM AS A WHOLE. BUT IN CASES WHERE IT IS KNOWN IN ADVANCE THAT THE DATES OF TWO EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE WILL CLASH I BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE MORE CONVENIENT TO ADJUST DATES. ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND FROM THE TELEGRAM OF OUR EMBASSY THAT NO CHANGE IS FORESEEN IN THE TIMING OF OFFICIAL CONTACTS, THE FACT THAT MRS. KISSINGER IS TO UNDERGO SURGERY IN A DIFFERENT CITY ON THE SAME DATE CREATES THE DIFFICULT SITUATION OF HOW YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW ON THE SAME DATE TWO EVETS WHERE YOUR PRESENCE MIGHT EQUALLY BE REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS.

I AM WELL AWARE OF MENTAL OCCUPATION THAT CONCERN OVER HEALTH QUESTIONS CREATES AND OF THE IMPORTANCE OF REFRAINING OF INTRODUCING OTHER MATTERS ON SUCH PERIODS. FURTHERMORE I BELIEVE THAT DETAILS OF AN OFFICSOAPROGRAM SHOULD BE ARRANGED IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THEY DO NOT LEAD TO MISINTERPRETATIONS WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER SIMILAR PROGRAMS.

WITH THESE OBSERVATIONS AND IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE DATE ON WHICH MRS. KISSINGER HAS TO UNDERGO SURGERY COINCIDES WITH THE DATE OF MY VISIT TO WASHINGTON I PROPOSE THAT MY VISIT BE POSTPONED TO A MUTUALLY AGREED DATE AND IF POSSIBLE TO MAKE A JOINT ANNEUNCEMENT IN THIS RESPECT. TO ME ANY DATE BETWEEN MARCH 20 AND 28TH WILL BE CONVENIENT

I RELY ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING, WITH WARM REGARDS.
END TEXT.

3. I EXPRESSED REGRET, AND INQUIRED HOW YEVUZALP FELT THE NEGOTIATION SHOULD BE HANDLED DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND LATE MARCH. IEVUZALP SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT IN HIS PERSONAL VIEW THE ONLY MAJOR ISSUES STILL OUTSTANDING WERE DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE LEVEL OF US DEFENSE SUPPORT. THESE WERE ISSUES WHICH HAD TO BE RESOLVED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, SAID YEVUZALP, AND PERHAPS IT COULD BE DONE BY A SERIES OF EXCHANGES OF MESSAGES BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

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4. COMMENT: I WILL NOT BOTHER DEPARTMENT WITH A CHRONOLOGY OF MY TELEPHONE EXCHANGES WITH YEVUZALP THIS MORNING OR WITH OTHER DETAILS BUT I HAVE PRETTY GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG DID HIS BEST TO PERSUADE CAGLAYANGIL TO WITHDRAW THE ABOVE MESSAGE AND PROCEED TO WASHINGTON AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED. ELEKDAG EVEN ENGAGED CAGLAYANGIL IN A DISCUSSION ON THIS AT ANKZ-AIRPORT WHEN FONMIN ARRIVED FROM BAGHDAD. ALAS, IN VAIN.

BERGUS

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NNN

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